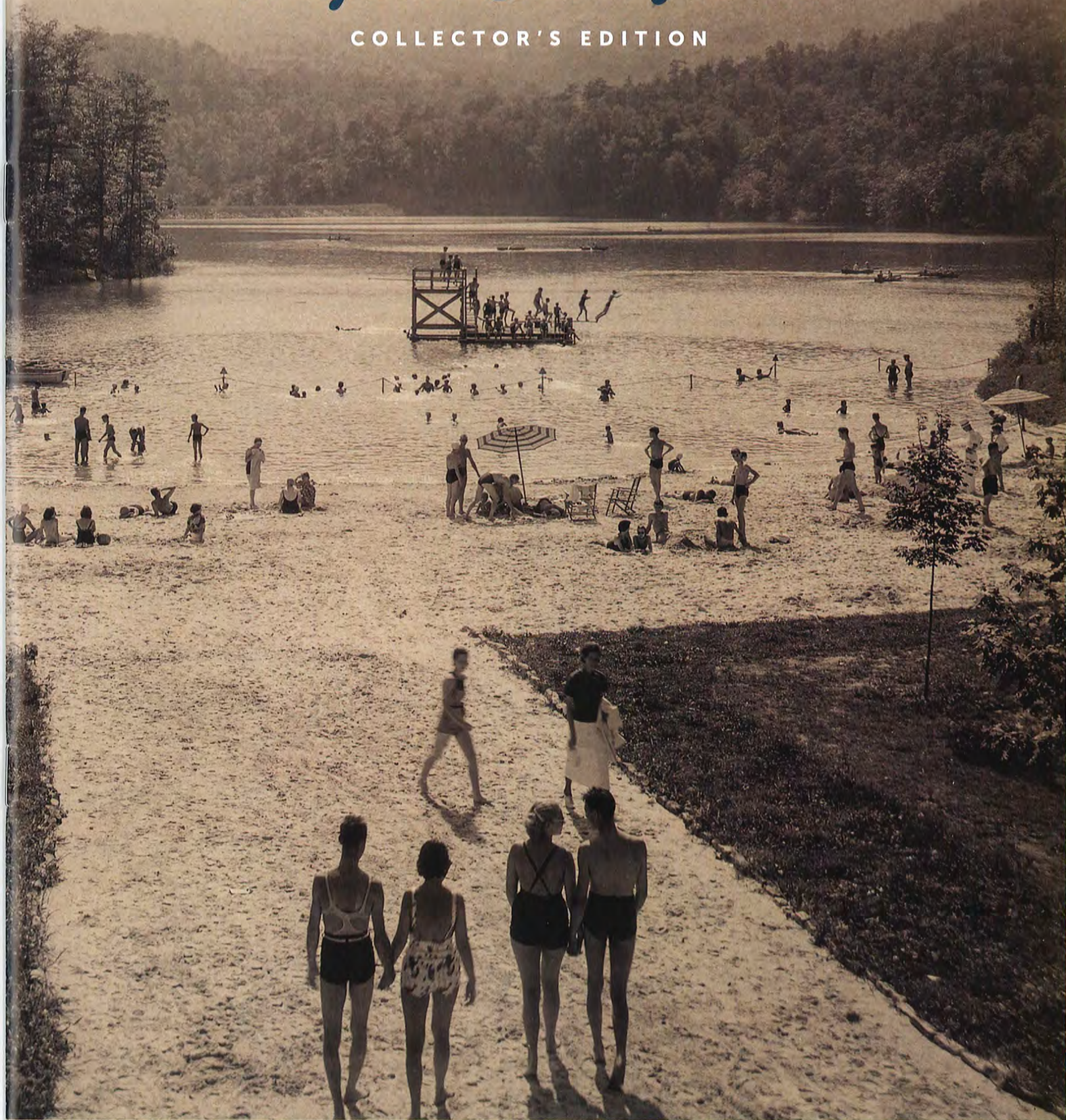


80th anniversary • 1936-2016

Virginia State Parks

COLLECTOR'S EDITION





80 things to do in Virginia State Parks

For our 80th anniversary, here's a list of 80 experiences you can have in Virginia State Parks. Share your experiences online using #vastateparks.

Bear Creek Lake

- Hike or bike the 14-mile Cumberland Multi-use Trail.
- Make a bullseye on the archery range.

Belle Isle

- Paddleboard the Rappahannock River.
- Sleep to the sounds of the Rappahannock River at Brewer's Point campground.
- Help tend the oyster garden.

Breaks Interstate

- Learn to throw a tomahawk.
- Take a guided hike of the canyon's rim.

Caledon

- Kayak with eagles.

Chippokes Plantation

- Discover prehistoric marine fossils on the beach.
- Watch a tractor pull at the Steam and Gas Engine Show.

Claytor Lake

- Decorate your campsite for the Halloween campsite decorating contest.
- Take one of a kind photos from the Claytor Lake Trail overlook.

Douthat

- Stay in an original CCC cabin.
- Hike to Blue Suck Falls.

Fairy Stone

- Canoe over the town of Fayerdale, under Fairystone Lake.
- Hike through history to see old mines.

False Cape

- Paddle with dolphins in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ride the "terra-gator."

First Landing

- Walk the shore of the Chesapeake Bay at night.
- For a long hike, take Bald Cypress Trail to Fox Run Trail to Long Creek Trail.

Grayson Highlands

- Try bouldering.
- Enjoy the Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition.
- Delight in the wonder of wild ponies.

High Bridge Trail

- Learn about the battle below High Bridge... the wagon bridge breach.
- Watch fireflies fly.

Holliday Lake

- Examine the underwater food chain at night during the "Beneath the Surface" program.
- Tour Holliday Lake Dam by canoe.

Hungry Mother

- Experience Underwater Adventures.
- Take the family to the lodge.
- Hike Molly's Knob.

James River

- Relax at Tye River Overlook.
- Tube the historic James River.

Kiptopeke

- Paddle around concrete ships at sunset.
- Fish at midnight on the pier.
- Stay in a yurt.

Lake Anna


- Experience Stampmill Sam's Gold Adventure.
- Pet a live snake and watch the feeding at Snakes Alive.

Leesylvania

- Commemorate the anniversary of the Battle at Freestone Point.
- Birdwatch on the Potomac Heritage Trail and Powell's Creek Trail.

Mason Neck

- Enjoy the Swanfall festival.



Carefully remove the Collector's Edition cover to use your list all year long.





A message from Governor McAuliffe

Travel across Virginia and you'll find some of the finest scenery in the nation. Our state is also home to many of the country's most significant historical and cultural sites.

From the mountains in the heart of Appalachia to the sandy shores of

the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, our Commonwealth is as diverse and interesting as are the people who call Virginia home.

Virginia State Parks are the best way to explore the rich, natural wonder of our beautiful state and to experience the finest Virginia has to offer. From a quiet hike along the lakeshore to the foot-stomping music of a bluegrass festival, our 36 state parks offer hundreds of programs, activities, concerts and other ways to enjoy Virginia.

Learning takes on new meaning as you and your family enjoy a ranger-led hike, explore a visitor center featuring state-of-the-art displays or experience history firsthand with a costumed interpreter. The electronic treasure hunting of geocaching helps children connect with nature as you connect with what's important.

Make plans today to begin your Virginia State Park adventure. Whether it's a few weeks or a few hours, time in a park is time well spent, and you'll soon learn why so many of us are saying, "I love Virginia State Parks."

Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia

Get Active	6
Programs and Festivals	10
Nature and History	14
Cabins, Lodges and Campsites	18
Meeting and Event Facilities	21
Natural Area Preserves	22
Get Involved	23
General Information	23

Photos: cover front and back, page 4: Bill Crabtree Jr., courtesy Virginia Tourism Corp.
Page 3, 18: Jeff Saxman, saxmanphoto.com.



Find Your Park

The National Park Service is celebrating its centennial in 2016, and you're invited to join in at one of the 21 national parks in Virginia.

The official birthday, or Founders Day, is Aug. 25, but we're not waiting until then to celebrate. We're celebrating throughout the whole year. The natural beauty and history of Virginia is at your fingertips in sites such as the Booker T. Washington National Monument and Manassas National Battlefield Park.



If you're looking for adventure, look no further than Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, where you can find kayaking spring through fall. There are also geocaching discoveries year-round.

Music and parks go hand in hand, so why not kick back this summer at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park for its annual concert series?

There are many more opportunities to #FindYourPark in Virginia - they're closer than you think. Visit www.FindYourPark.com or www.nps.gov/va for more information.

Find Your Experience

Beyond beautiful scenery, state parks provide experiences. With opportunities to explore the outdoors and enjoy programs and activities led by knowledgeable staff, there are countless ways for you and your family to find an experience.

As you travel the state, there are many sites and stories that are connected by experiences. Black history, the American Civil War, music and the Civilian Conservation Corps all had an impact on Virginia, and you can learn the stories behind the history in state parks.

Many parks offer opportunities for you to learn about the settlement of Virginia and the nation - from the settlers who first set foot on the East Coast to the pioneers risking everything and heading west from the western point of Virginia. Other parks explore the tradition of the American Indians who called this land home for thousands of years.

Of course, there are hands-on experiences, too. From hiking and stargazing to paddling and biking, you can find something that's uniquely yours as you enjoy our parks and find your experience.

"Moments are history. If you have enough of them, they become a story."

— Adriana Trigiani



Happy birthday, Virginia State Parks!



Just as tiny acorns grow to be mighty oak trees, the Virginia State Park system has grown from a small group of parks to a statewide network encompassing more than 70,000 acres.

On June 15, 1936, Virginia became the first state to open an entire park system on the same day.

The six parks offered modern outdoor recreational facilities while protecting areas with significant natural resources. Since then, the system has grown to 36 open parks and six parks targeted for future development.

Each has natural and historical resources carefully managed and preserved while providing a wide variety of recreation opportunities for Virginia residents and visitors alike.

This year marks our 80th anniversary, the year traditionally celebrated with oak, and we're celebrating all year long.

From time capsules to tree plantings, and the launch of a new customer loyalty program we're planning special surprises, events and activities.

For more about the history of Virginia State Parks, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/history.

Moments and Memories

Our days are filled with moments. Moments quickly become memories that last a lifetime.

Sharing stories around a campfire with good friends.

Relaxing on a cabin porch, watching the sun set with your special someone.

The sound of a fish the moment it breaks the surface and the ringing giggles and expression of wonder in a little girl's face as she watches.

Generations gathered together for a family reunion.

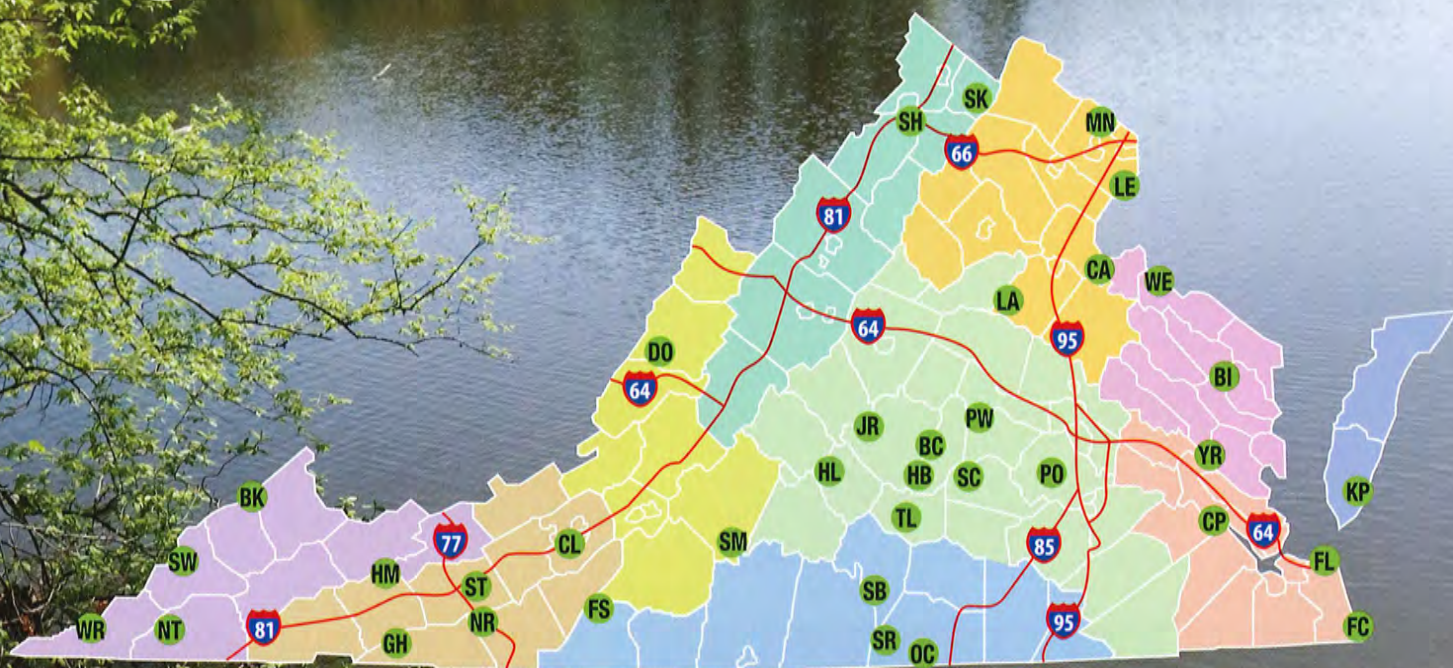
The sacred silence of fields, streams, shores and mountains where we remember what's important.

The aroma of cookouts, s'mores, wood smoke and sunscreen.

Picnics. Swimming. Hiking. Boating. Biking.

Virginia State Parks are the perfect place for you to fill the scrapbook of your life with moments both nostalgic and familiar.

Virginia State Parks



*"Memory is the diary we all
carry about with us."*

— Oscar Wilde

Kids to Parks Day – May 21, 2016

Every day is a great day to visit a Virginia State Park, but Kids to Parks Day, May 21, is the best day to take the entire family.

All parks will offer special programs and activities that day to help introduce you and your family to the wonders of the outdoors. From special ranger-led hikes to stargazing parties, you're sure to find something new and exciting.

Kids to Parks Day, sponsored by the National Park Trust, is designed to get kids outdoors and into parks and to promote environmental stewardship and a healthy lifestyle.

For more information about National Kids to Parks Day and to search for programs and events outside of Virginia, visit www.kidstoparks.org.

Tin Can Tourists, June 9-12, 2016

Dozens of vintage trailers will roll into Westmoreland State Park, June 9-12, in honor of our 80th anniversary.

Space Sprockets, Jets, Airstreams, Comanches and other historic recreational vehicles will be on display in one of the oldest campgrounds in Virginia. Stroll among these rolling history lessons or, if you own a vintage camper, join the fun.

For more information, visit www.tincantourists.com.

Park Amenities

			Boat Launching	Boat Rentals	Fishing	Cabins	Camping	Nature/Cultural Programs	Playgrounds	Swimming	Trails
SHENANDOAH VALLEY											
SH	Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River	540-622-6840	CT		•	•	•	•			B/E/H
SK	Sky Meadows	540-592-3556			•		PC	•			B/E/H/U
VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS											
DO	Douthat	540-862-8100	T	•	• FP	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H
SM	Smith Mountain Lake	540-297-6066	•	•	• FP	•	•	•	•	•	B/H
NORTHERN VIRGINIA											
LA	Lake Anna	540-854-5503	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U
LE	Leesylvania	703-730-8205	•	•	• FP		G	•	•		H/U
MN	Mason Neck	703-339-2385	CT	•	•			•	•		B/H/U
CHESAPEAKE BAY											
BI	Belle Isle	804-462-5030	•	•	• FP	•	•	•	•		B/E/H/U
CA	Caledon	540-663-3861			•		PC	•	•		B/H
WE	Westmoreland	804-493-8821	•	•	• FP	•	•	•	•	P	B/H/U
HAMPTON ROADS											
CP	Chippokes Plantation	757-294-3728			•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H/U
FC	False Cape	757-426-7128			•		PC	•			B/H
FL	First Landing	757-412-2300	•		•	•	•	•	•		B/H/U
YR	York River	757-566-3036	•	•	• FP			•	•		B/E/H/U
EASTERN SHORE											
KP	Kiptopeke	757-331-2267	•	•	• FP	•	•	•	•	•	H/U/B
CENTRAL VIRGINIA											
BC	Bear Creek Lake	804-492-4410	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H
HB	High Bridge Trail	434-315-0457						•			B/E/H/U
HL	Holliday Lake	434-248-6308	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H
JR	James River	434-933-4355	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		B/E/H/U
PO	Pocahontas	804-796-4255	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H/U
PW	Powhatan	804-598-7148	CT		•		PC	•	•		B/E/H
SC	Sailor's Creek Battlefield	804-561-7510						•			H
TL	Twin Lakes (Cedar Crest Conference Center)	434-392-3435 434-767-2398	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H
BLUE RIDGE											
CL	Claytor Lake	540-643-2500	•	•	• FP	•	•	•	•	•	B/H/U
GH	Grayson Highlands	276-579-7092			•		•	•	•		B/E/H
HM	Hungry Mother (Hemlock Haven Conference Center)	276-781-7400 276-781-7425	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H/U
NR	New River Trail	276-699-6778	CT	•	•		PC	•	•		B/E/H/U
ST	Shot Tower	276-699-6778						•			H
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA											
FS	Fairy Stone	276-930-2424	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U
OC	Oconeechee	434-374-2210	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		B/E/H
SB	Staunton River Battlefield	434-454-4312			•			•			B/H/U
SR	Staunton River	434-572-4623	•		•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H
HEART OF APPALACHIA											
BK	Breaks Interstate	276-865-4413	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H
NT	Natural Tunnel (Cove Ridge Conference Center)	276-940-2674 276-940-2696			•	•	•	•	•	P	B/H/U
SW	Southwest Virginia Museum	276-523-1322				•		•			H/U
WR	Wilderness Road	276-445-3065					G	•	•		B/E/H

TABLE LEGEND: (B) Biking (CT) Car-top Boat Launch (E) Equestrian (FP) Fishing Pier (G) Group Camping by Permit (H) Hiking (P) Pool Swimming (PC) Primitive Camping (T) Electric Motors Only (U) Universally Accessible

We LOVE to see you having fun in Virginia State Parks! Share the fun. #vastateparks



Get Active

An Important Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

Virginia State Parks are a tonic for the mind, body and spirit. Recreational opportunities in state parks are endless and easy to see. From swimming and boating to horseshoes and hiking, there's always something to do in a state park. Parents play a big role in helping kids get up and get moving. Be a role model for your children.

Kids who see physically active adults having fun are more likely to be active and stay active throughout their lives. Take the whole family hiking, biking, canoeing or swimming. Focus on fun. By providing a safe and attractive environment for physical activity, Virginia State Parks can play an essential part in a healthy lifestyle.

Trails

More than 600 miles of trails of varying difficulty crisscross Virginia's state parks. The trails give hikers the chance to explore hardwood forests, coastal marshes and flowering meadows. Self-guided trails introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of each area, and markers provide interesting and educational information. Horseback riders and bicyclists will find miles of bridle and bike trails in state parks all across Virginia.

Several parks are on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, which traces Smith's routes and the key rivers linked to them, helping visitors imagine the world he encountered more than 400 years ago. Look for the logo identifying these parks. To learn more about touring the trail, visit www.FindYourChesapeake.com.



Boating and Fishing

Virginia State Parks offer access to the state's four largest lakes, most major rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Smaller, man-made lakes in a number of parks are known for healthy populations of smallmouth bass, trout, crappie and bream. At Douthat Lake, anglers can fish for seasonally stocked trout for a daily fee.

A Virginia fishing license is required to fish in most state park waters. Annual boat launch passes offer significant savings to frequent boaters.

Swimming

The young and young at heart enjoy taking a relaxing, summertime dip at our parks. Beaches and pools at 17 state parks,

complemented by sunbathing areas, clean bathhouses and concession facilities, are generally open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Overnight guests have free swimming privileges, except for group cabin visitors at Pocahontas State Park. A fee is charged to day visitors. Season passes and discounted swimming tickets offer savings for frequent visitors.

Picnicking

From an impromptu picnic to a special occasion, all parks have picnic tables and grills. Picnic shelters are available at most parks. Shelter rental reservations can be made by calling the Customer Service Center at 800-933-7275. When not reserved, most shelters are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

Equipment Rentals

Many parks rent stand-up paddle boards, canoes, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, hydro-bikes and bicycles. Check with the park for specifics. Guided horseback riding trips are available at New River Trail State Park.

Hunting

Open hunting is offered in designated areas of some parks each year. Resource management hunts are held in parks annually in response to the needs of individual parks.

Our cabins and campgrounds make excellent base camps for hunting in nearby wildlife management areas and public forests. For current hunting-related updates and announcements, visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park

This park is on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and has more than 1,640 acres along 5.2 miles of shoreline. In addition to meandering river frontage, the park offers scenic views of Massanutten Mountain to the west and Shenandoah National Park to the east. A zip-line canopy tour, a large riverside picnic area, picnic shelters, trails, river access and a car-top boat launch make this a popular destination for families, anglers and canoeists. Ten riverfront tent campsites, a campground with water and electric sites, cabins, camping cabins, a group campsite and a visitor center are available. With more than 26 miles of trails, the park has plenty of options for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

LOCATION — Warren County, just off U.S. 340 between Front Royal and Luray. Some of the park borders U.S. 340 on the east and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River on the west.



Douthat State Park

Douthat is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the role its design played in the development of parks nationwide. Amid some of Virginia's most breathtaking mountain scenery, visitors enjoy interpretive programs, 4 miles of stream fishing, a 50-acre lake stocked with trout, a sandy swimming beach with snack bar, boat rentals, a gift shop and camp store, cabins, and more than 43 miles of hiking, mountain biking and bridle trails. Plus, there are playgrounds, an amphitheater, picnic areas, tent and trailer camping, and a restaurant overlooking the lake. The park also has 32 cabins and three lodges that accommodate 15, 16 and 18 guests each.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY	Douthat Lake Run Car Show
OCTOBER	Apple Day – A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage and Arts and Crafts Fair

LOCATION — Northeast of Clifton Forge. Interstate 64 to exit 27, to State Route 629, then 5 miles north.

Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1,864-acre park has scenic views, woodlands and the rolling pastures of a historic farm that captures the Colonial through post-Civil War life of Mount Bleak House. Nature and history programs are offered year-round. Hiking, picnicking, fishing and primitive hike-in camping for families and groups are favorite activities in this peaceful getaway on the slopes of the Blue Ridge and Lost Mountains. The park has 9.5 miles of bridle trails, 22 miles of hiking trails, 9 miles of bike trails and Appalachian Trail access.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Egg-stravaganza
MAY	Astronomy Day
	Delaplane Strawberry Festival
JUNE	Great American Backyard Campout
JULY	Bark in the Park
AUGUST	National Honeybee Day
OCTOBER	Fall Farm Festival weekends
NOVEMBER	Veteran's Day 5K Run/Walk
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER	Holiday House

LOCATION — 2 miles south of Paris. Take U.S. 50 to State Route 17 south or, from I-66, take State Route 17 north at exit 23. The park entrance is on State Route 710 west.

Smith Mountain Lake State Park

On the second largest freshwater lake in the state, this picturesque park is the water enthusiast's paradise. Water activities include swimming, boat rentals, a boat ramp and a universally accessible fishing pier. Families can also enjoy picnicking, a visitor center, an amphitheater, special programs, camping, miles of trails and cabins with boat docks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY-APRIL	Winter Lecture Series
MAY	Triathlon
MAY-AUGUST	Music in the Park Series
JUNE	Aspiring Anglers Junior Fishing Tournament
	Bedford County Youth Fishing Clinic
SEPTEMBER	Lake Christian Ministries Walk-A-Thon

LOCATION — From U.S. 460 in Bedford County, take State Route 122 south to Route 608 east to Route 626 south.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY



VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS



Lake Anna State Park

The park has a beach on one of Virginia's most popular lakes, a fishing pond accessible to children and the disabled, a bathhouse-concessions complex and a boat launch. Camping, picnicking, six camping cabins and 10 two-bedroom cabins, seven with views of the lake, also are available. With more than 15 miles of trails, the park offers many hiking, biking and horseback riding options, including a 20-station fitness trail. "Nature meets technology" at its visitor center, which offers a 3D movie theater and interactive exhibits. Nature and gold panning programs are popular, and the park offers guided tours of the Goodwin Gold Mine, ranger-led programs, geocaching, and canoe and kayak trips.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FALL	Wine by the Lake
WINTER	Deck the Halls, Naturally

LOCATION — Adjacent to State Route 601 off State Route 208; 25 miles southwest of Fredericksburg and 50 miles northwest of Richmond.



"The only real treasure is in your head. Memories are better than diamonds and nobody can steal them from you."

— Rodman Philbrick

Leesylvania State Park



Leesylvania is nestled along the tidal shores of the historic Potomac River. Native Americans lived on this land for thousands of years. Capt. John Smith visited the area in 1608 on his voyage of discovery. It's also the ancestral home of Virginia's legendary Lee and Fairfax families. Listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, Leesylvania offers many land and water activities, including hiking, paddle-in camping, picnicking, fishing and boating. A universally accessible fishing pier, playground, boat launch, boat storage area, snack bar and store, visitor center and gift shop are available. There's a 20-station fitness trail, and canoe, kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals are available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUMMER	Marina Concert Series
MAY – SEPTEMBER	Monthly kids fishing tournaments
SEPTEMBER	Anniversary of the Potomac River Blockade 1861
OCTOBER	Haunted History Hike
DECEMBER	Civil War Christmas

LOCATION — 25 miles south of Washington, D.C. From U.S. 1, take State Route 610 (Neabsco Road) and continue east 2 miles.

Mason Neck State Park



Just a short drive from Washington, D.C., this Northern Virginia park offers many outdoor activities and programs. It has hiking trails, 3 miles of paved multi-use trails, a large picnic area, a playground, a car-top canoe launch and a visitor center. Canoe, kayak and bicycle rentals are available. Bird watching, especially for American bald eagles, and guided canoe trips of Kane's Creek and Belmont Bay are favorites with park visitors. The wetlands, forest, open water, ponds and open fields make it ideal for environmental study and wildlife observation. Nearby attractions include the Elizabeth Hartwell National Wildlife Refuge, Gunston Hall and Pohick Bay Regional Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPRING	Eagle Festival, Potomac Watershed Cleanup
SUMMER	National Trails Day, Clean the Bay Day
FALL	Park After Dark

LOCATION — 7 miles northeast of Woodbridge. Take U.S. 1, then east on State Route 242 (Gunston Road) for about 4 miles.

Belle Isle State Park



Belle Isle has 7 miles of shoreline on the Northern Neck's Rapahannock River and provides access to Mulberry and Deep creeks. The park lets visitors explore a wide variety of tidal wetlands interspersed with farmland and upland forests. It has a campground, a primitive canoe-in campground, three picnic shelters, hiking, biking and bridle trails, and motor boat and canoe launches. Belle Isle also offers overnight lodging at Bel Air and the Bel Air Guest House. Bicycle, canoe, kayak and motorboat rentals are available. Guests also enjoy the park's universal access playground, boardwalk and fishing pier, and educational programs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY – AUGUST **Music by the River,**
second and third Saturdays each month

LOCATION — From Warsaw, take State Route 3 east to State Route 354 and then State Route 683 at Somers to the park entrance in Lancaster County. From Kilmarnock, take State Route 3 west, turn left on State Route 201, right on State Route 354 and left at State Route 683.

Caledon State Park



A National Natural Landmark known for old growth forest and summer home to a large concentration of American bald eagles, Caledon attracts bird watchers and hikers of all ages. A primitive paddle-in campground is near Jones Pond. The six-site primitive campground along the shores of the Potomac River is available for those paddling in from the Potomac or hiking the 3 miles from the park visitor center. Trails leading to the Potomac River and through the climax forest are open year-round. There are four multi-use trails. A visitor center with bald eagle exhibits, three picnic areas, a picnic shelter and restrooms also are available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER **Howlin' Coyote 10K Trail Run and Pup Dash**
NOVEMBER **Caledon Art & Wine Festival**

LOCATION — From east or west, take State Route 3 to State Route 206 east for about 7 miles to State Route 218 west for 1 mile to park entrance.

Westmoreland State Park



On the Potomac River's Northern Neck, this park offers many opportunities for family fun. It has an Olympic-sized swimming pool and an adjacent bathhouse, meeting area, snack bar, camp store and power-boat ramp. You'll also find a visitor center, campgrounds, primitive, paddle-in campground, camping cabins, cabins, a fishing pier, boat rentals and 6 miles of trails. Fossil collectors enjoy hunting for ancient shark teeth along the Potomac. Offshore breakwaters are great for fishing. Birding enthusiasts find the park an excellent site for spotting American bald eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, great blue herons, common terns, green herons and gulls, as well as wintering waterfowl. The Potomac River Retreat is an overnight center suitable for family reunions and other gatherings of up to 15. Its waterfront location provides docking space at a boathouse. Murphy Hall, atop Horse Head Cliffs, offers a superb view of the Potomac River. The hall accommodates up to 72 people for meetings and other gatherings. Amenities include audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and an executive board room.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUMMER **Music on the Cliffs**
NOVEMBER **Gobble Wobble**
WINTER **Holiday Fest**

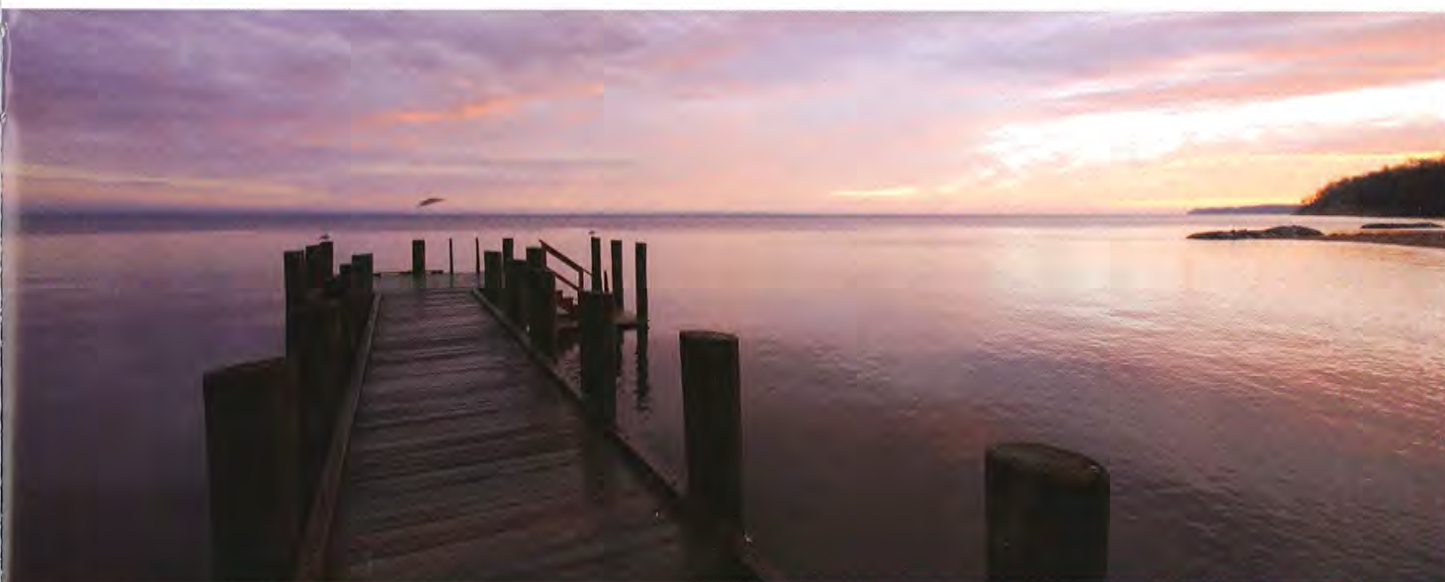
LOCATION — 5 miles northwest of Montross, just off State Route 3.

"I guess sometimes the greatest memories are made in the most unlikely of places, further proof that spontaneity is more rewarding than a meticulously planned life."

— J.A. Redmerski



CHESAPEAKE BAY



Programs and Festivals



"You'll never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

– Dr. Seuss

Environmental Education and Youth Programs

Virginia State Parks are premier environmental education sites. Schools, scouts, other civic groups and individuals are encouraged to come learn more about the great outdoors. Backyard Classroom programs, incorporating Virginia's Standards of Learning, promote lifelong learning about Virginia's natural wonders and historic treasures. They also help young people enjoy, appreciate and understand the great outdoors. The Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps offers a three-week public service program in the summer. For more information on this popular, award-winning program, email vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov.

False Cape State Park's Wash Woods Environmental Education Center offers overnight facilities for schools and groups of up to 26. The center is ideal for those interested in coastal barrier spit ecosystems or the cultural history of Virginia's Outer Banks. Natural

Tunnel's Cove Ridge Center has overnight accommodations for up to 48 guests or students. It's perfect for studying Southwest Virginia's ecology, karst topography and rich cultural history.

Learn to take wildlife photographs. Master new outdoor cooking recipes. Pan for gold or tour a cave. Enjoy a ranger-led nature hike, eagle tour or owl prowl. Park programs, workshops and events are as diverse as the parks themselves. They're great places to learn and improve outdoor skills.

There's plenty of history in Virginia's state parks, too. Immerse yourself in Colonial times, the Civil War or the Underground Railroad. When it comes to festivals, you'll find music, arts and crafts, local food and beverage, classic cars and more.

Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive information is available at www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Chippokes Plantation State Park



Just across the James River from historic Jamestown, Chippokes Plantation is one of the oldest continually farmed plantations in the country. A working farm since 1619, the park offers modern recreational activities and a glimpse of a bygone era. Visitors tour the historic area's antebellum mansion and outbuildings, stroll through formal gardens, and view antique equipment at the Chippokes Farm and Forestry Museum. A campground and four overnight cottages allow visitors to stay on the historic grounds. The park has an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a visitor center with a gift shop. It also provides opportunities to bike, hike, ride horseback and picnic. Chippokes Plantation also offers wedding packages and meeting facilities.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Historic Garden Week
JUNE	Steam and Gas Engine Show
JULY	Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival
OCTOBER	Chippokes Harvest Celebration

LOCATION — Access is via State Route 10 in Surry County.

False Cape State Park

Nestled between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, False Cape State Park is one of the last remaining undeveloped areas along the East Coast. As the former home of Native Americans, the historic Wash Woods community and a Coast Guard life-saving station, False Cape honors the hardy souls who made a living from the sea.

The park offers an opportunity to experience nature in a unique, primitive setting. Be prepared for weather conditions. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellent. False Cape features guided kayak trips, primitive camping, interpretive programs, hiking and biking trails, and 6 miles of pristine Atlantic Ocean beach. The park is accessible only by foot, bicycle, beach transport, tram or boat. There is no public vehicular access.

Tram transportation is available April 1 - Oct. 31 through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which has an entrance fee. Between Nov. 1 and March 31, access to the park is restricted to hiking or biking along the beach, by boat or by the park's beach transporter. To make reservations for the beach transporter, call 800-933-7275.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Earth Day, Arbor Day
JUNE	Clean the Bay Day, National Trails Day
SEPTEMBER	International Coastal Cleanup, Stewardship Virginia

LOCATION — Southeast of Virginia Beach at the south end of Sandbridge. False Cape is Virginia's southernmost park, its southern boundary being the North Carolina line.

First Landing State Park



The park is the site of the first landing of the Jamestown colonists in 1607. Within its boundaries are several unique and varied ecosystems including bald cypress swamps, salt water marsh, maritime forest and coastal dunes. The park is a National Natural Landmark and a National Historic Landmark. Native American canoes, colonial settlers, 20th century schooners and modern cargo ships have navigated the waterways in and near the park. The cypress swamps were a source of fresh water for merchant mariners, pirates and military ships. According to local legend, Blackbeard hid in the Narrows area of the park, and the entrance on the bay stood witness to Union and Confederate patrols and blockade-runners during the Civil War. Built in part by an all African-American Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933-1940, it is now Virginia's most-visited state park and remains a natural oasis in Virginia Beach's urban oceanfront area.

The park has 20 miles of trails and 1.5 miles of beach along the Chesapeake Bay. Offering many recreational and educational activities, it's a great place to explore unusual habitats featuring bald cypress trees, lagoons, rare plants and wildlife, and maritime forest ecology. Cabins, water and electric hook-up campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps and a camp store with bicycle rentals are also available. The Chesapeake Bay Center houses historical and educational exhibits. The Trail Center, outdoor courtyard, pavilion and amphitheater can be rented for special events and weddings.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Tree Army Day
MAY	Kids to Park Day
JUNE	Clean the Bay Day
OCTOBER	First Landing Fall Festival

LOCATION — U.S. 60 at Cape Henry in Virginia Beach.

York River State Park



The park is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life. It is on the York River and is designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The pristine environment offers clues to a rich natural and cultural history and hosts fossil beds and Colonial and Native American artifacts. Programs, activities and visitor center displays focus on the history, use, wildlife and preservation of the York River and its marshes.

More than 40 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails allow visitors to explore the marsh, river shoreline and forests. A boat ramp, fresh and salt water fishing spots, a fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic shelters and seasonal boat rentals are available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AUGUST	Estuaries Day
OCTOBER	Ghost Trails

LOCATION — From Interstate 64, exit 231-B. Go north on State Route 607 for 1 mile, then right on State Route 606.





EASTERN SHORE

Kiptopeke State Park



On Virginia's beautiful Eastern Shore, explored by Capt. John Smith in 1608, Kiptopeke offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay. It's also a great place to explore unique migratory bird habitat along the Atlantic flyway. The park has six-bedroom lodges, RV and tent camping, a yurt (part cabin-part tent) and a bunkhouse that sleeps 12. Guests also enjoy the boat ramp, lighted fishing pier, picnic areas, playground, 5.1 miles of hiking and biking trails, beach bathhouse and swimming beach. Seasonal interpretive and educational programs focus on natural history, birding and bay ecology. Rental kayaks and bicycles are available seasonally.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Earth Day
JUNE	Clean the Bay Day
	Father's Day Fishing Program
SEPTEMBER	Virginia Clean Waterways
OCTOBER	Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival

LOCATION — 3 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on U.S. Route 13, then west on State Route 704.

Bear Creek Lake State Park



Nestled in the heart of the Cumberland State Forest in central Virginia, Bear Creek Lake is less than an hour west of Richmond. It's the perfect getaway for the outdoor enthusiast. Activities center on the 40-acre lake with a boat launch, fishing pier, boat rentals and a swimming beach. Other attractions include a meeting facility, cabins, camping, picnicking, an archery range and playgrounds. Guests also enjoy trails and access to the adjoining 16,000-acre Cumberland State Forest, including the 14-mile Cumberland Multi-use Trail, which is available for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

LOCATION — From U.S. 60 at Cumberland Courthouse, north on State Route 622 and then west on State Route 629.

Holliday Lake State Park



Deep in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Holliday Lake is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast. Fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill is popular. Visitors enjoy swimming at the guarded beach and the "Critter Hole" play area. The park has several hiking trails, including a connector trail to the 10.2-mile Carter Taylor Multi-use Trail for hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders. Visitors enjoy its campground, picnic shelters, playgrounds, seasonal concession stand, gift shop and boat ramp. The park rents canoes, kayaks, jon boats, stand-up paddle boards and pedal-boats. Holliday Lake is just minutes from the famous Appomattox Court House National Historical Park where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in 1865.

LOCATION — Accessible via State Route 24 between Appomattox and U.S. 60 and from state routes 626, 640 and 692.

High Bridge Trail State Park

High Bridge Trail is 31 miles long and ideally suited for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Once a rail bed, the trail is wide, level and generally flat. The trail's finely crushed limestone surface and dimensions make it easy for everyone to enjoy. The park's centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and 125 feet above the Appomattox River. It is the longest recreational bridge in Virginia and among the longest in the United States. High Bridge is a Virginia Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. High Bridge Trail is designated a National Recreation Trail recognizing exemplary trails of local and regional significance, connecting people to nature, to each other, and to our shared histories and cultures. Bring plenty of drinking water because it's not available on the trail.

There are multiple access points along the trail. Use municipal parking lots in Farmville. Others are at River Road in Cumberland County; Camp Paradise Road off Aspen Hill Road in Rice; Osborne Road in Farmville; Heights School Road in Prince Edward County; and at Rice, Tuggle and Prospect. Horse trailer parking is available at Prospect, Osborne Road, Camp Paradise Road and Heights School Road.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE	National Trails Day
SEPTEMBER	High Bridge Half Marathon and 5K Race

LOCATION — See above description for trail access points.

James River State Park



Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as 3 miles of shoreline along the James River. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak, fish or camp on the banks of the historic river or at Branch Pond. Facilities include cabins, a nature center, a gift shop, picnic shelters, multi-use trails, boat launches, campgrounds and equestrian camping. The park also has a universally accessible fishing pier and a .25-mile-long wheelchair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. James River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full-service canoe livery, provides canoe, kayak and tube rentals as well as shuttle services. For more information about the livery (open seasonally), call 434-933-8682. The park is also a great place to view the annual James River Batteau Festival. A replica of one of the unusual vessels is on display at the visitor center.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JULY	Summer Festival
OCTOBER	Fall Festival

LOCATION — From State Route 60 West in Buckingham County, turn right on State Route 605 at the James River Bridge. Go 7 miles and turn left onto State Route 606.



CENTRAL VA



Pocahontas State Park

Just 20 miles from downtown Richmond, Pocahontas offers boating, picnicking, camping, camping cabins, hiking, and interpretive and environmental education programs. The Aquatic Center has seasonal water-based activities for the entire family, with a kiddie pool, fountain wet deck, 3-foot and 5-foot-deep leisure pools, an activity pool and two tubular water slides. Rowboat, paddleboat, paddleboard, kayak and canoe rentals also are available at the 200-acre Swift Creek Lake from April through October. Two fishing lakes have crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish.

The park has more than 80 miles of trails throughout 7,925 acres open to hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, dedicated to the Depression-era workers who helped build the state park system, is one of a handful in the nation. The park dining halls are available for meetings, events and weddings. The Heritage Amphitheater offers seasonal performances. Group facilities with meeting space and primitive overnight cabins also are available. New this year are 7 miles of single track, machine-built, flow trail designed and built in conjunction with the International Mountain Biking Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Friends of Pocahontas. The trail includes a double loop trail specifically for hand-cycles and beginning cyclists and features continuous loops with off shooting skill-building segments.

SPECIAL EVENTS

IN SEASON	Pocahontas Amphitheater Performing Arts Series
OCTOBER	Park After Dark

LOCATION — Interstate 95 to State Route 288 north in Chesterfield County, then State Route 10 east to State Route 655 (Beach Road) west. Travel 3 miles, and the park is on the right.

Powhatan State Park

Powhatan State Park is in the northwest corner of Powhatan County on the banks of the historic James River. The park has diverse wildlife habitat, from open fields to upland hardwood forests. Guests can use the park's car-top boat slide to access the river. Other amenities include a canoe-in campground, wildlife observation areas, three picnic shelters and a playground. In addition, more than 7 miles of trails are available.

LOCATION — From Route 288, take State Route 711 west (Huguenot Trail) to State Route 522 (Maidens Road). Turn right there. After about 4 miles, turn left on State Route 617 (Old River Trail). The park entrance is on the right in 1.5 miles.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park

On April 6, 1865, nearly a quarter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, more than 7,700 men, were killed, wounded or captured here. As a direct result, Lee surrendered 72 hours later at Appomattox Court House. Period dressed staff and volunteers present various interpretive programs throughout the year, including seasonal tours of the 1780s era Hillsman House, which was used as a Federal army field hospital during the battle. Living-history events take place throughout the year. The park is part of the Lee's Retreat driving tour so motorists can follow the historical route and learn more about the battle by reading descriptive signs with battle-related accounts, maps and photographs at wayside pull off areas.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY	First Day Hike led by park historians
APRIL	Anniversary Commemoration Event of the Battles of Sailor's Creek
MAY	Memorial Day Military Service Commemoration Event
AUGUST	Ice Cream Sundays lecture series
OCTOBER	Rocking Chair Reflections lecture series
NOVEMBER	Veteran's Day Luminary program
DECEMBER	Antebellum Saint Nicholas visitation

LOCATION — 10 miles east of Farmville. Take State Route 307 (the connecting highway between U.S. 360 and U.S. 460 at Farmville) to State Route 617 north and follow the signs.

Twin Lakes State Park

In the heart of central Virginia and surrounded by the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest, Twin Lakes is just outside Farmville and less than an hour west of Richmond. It's the perfect getaway for a day or for an extended vacation in one of the climate-controlled cabins or shaded campsites. Two lakes, Goodwin Lake and Prince Edward Lake, make Twin Lakes ideal for a variety of lakefront activities. Visitors enjoy a swimming beach, picnic shelters, a playground, boat rentals, fishing, nature program and 6.5 miles of trails. Located on the shore of Prince Edward Lake, Cedar Crest Conference Center offers a natural, secluded setting for weddings, retreats, business meetings and family gatherings.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER	Lighting of the Lake
OCTOBER	Haunting on the Lake

LOCATION — From U.S. 360 west of Burkeville to Route 613 and east on Route 629.

From U.S. 460 south on Route 696, east on Route 612, south on Route 613 and east on Route 629.

Nature and History

Civilian Conservation Corps

Between 1933 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps left an indelible imprint on the nation's landscape. The CCC planted trees, improved beaches and roads, and created 800 state parks, including 10 in Virginia. The original six parks were Douthat, Hungry Mother, Fairy Stone, Staunton River, Westmoreland, and Seashore, now First Landing. Bear Creek Lake, Holliday Lake, Pocahontas and what is now Twin Lakes were added later.

The parks built by the CCC are noted with a special logo in this publication. The same logo is displayed on historic buildings in the parks. The CCC Museum at Pocahontas State Park celebrates the achievements of those who served in the CCC.



Virginia State Parks' roots run deep. For nearly 80 years, we've cared for Virginia's natural, cultural and historical treasures so that you can, too.

Discover the past through historic buildings, such as the Victorian mansion that houses the Southwest Virginia Museum, the Shot Tower at Foster Falls on New River Trail, the antebellum mansion and brick kitchen at Chippokes Plantation, or the authentically recreated 1770s fort at Wilderness Road.

All parks have trails, many with signs explaining natural aspects of trail stops. Wander trails at First Landing through maritime

forests and cypress swamps, or hike Caledon's trails along ridges and ravines through rare old-growth forest. Overlooks at Hungry Mother, Grayson Highlands and Natural Tunnel offer a glimpse of the powerful geological forces that birthed the land. Mighty rivers shaped some parks, such as James River, Powhatan and Westmoreland. Many parks have a visitor center, trail center or environmental education lab.

Parks change with the season so every day offers new sights, sounds and discoveries. Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive information is available at www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Claytor Lake State Park

Ideal for swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking, Claytor Lake is known for sport fishing and boating. The park has a full-service marina with docking slips, fuel, boat rentals and refreshments. The Water's Edge Meeting Facility is perfect for receptions and reunions, and wedding packages are available. There's also a gift shop. Three lodges and 13 cabins overlook the 4,500-acre lake, offering a scenic retreat. The historic Howe House has interactive exhibits describing the ecology of the lake and the surrounding areas.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Claytor Lake Ness Monster Obstacle Course Race
JUNE	Celebration of Summer Festival
SEPTEMBER	Claytor Lake Sprint Triathlon
OCTOBER	Halloween Celebration

LOCATION — Interstate 81 to exit 101 near Dublin in Pulaski County.

Grayson Highlands State Park

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, Grayson Highlands offers scenic views from alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high. Facilities include a visitor center, campgrounds, and hiking trails leading to waterfalls and overlooks. Scenic horse trails and a horse camping area with electric and water hookups, stables and parking for trailers are available. The park provides year-round access to the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE	Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition
AUGUST	Albert Hash Festival (Saturday of Labor Day Weekend)
SEPTEMBER	Grayson Highlands Fall Festival

LOCATION — Interstate 81 to exit 45 in Marion, then State Route 16 to Volney and west on U.S. 58.

Shot Tower Historic State Park

Overlooking the New River, Shot Tower was built more than 200 years ago to make ammunition for the firearms of the early settlers. Lead from the nearby Austinville Mines was melted in a kettle atop the 75-foot tower and poured through a sieve, falling through the tower and an additional 75-foot shaft beneath the tower into a kettle of water. Guests may ascend the tower, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Interpretive signs provide details. Grounds are open from dawn until dusk. The parking lot is open year-round. The tower is open occasionally on weekends in the summer. Group tours are also available. Call 276-699-6778 for details.

LOCATION — Interstate 77 to exit 24 and go north on State Route 52 for 2 miles.



Hungry Mother State Park

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hungry Mother has long been a family favorite known for beautiful woodlands and a placid 108-acre lake nestled in the mountains of Southwest Virginia. Hungry Mother has a sandy swimming beach with a bathhouse and concessions, boat rentals (jon boats, canoe, kayak and paddleboats and stand-up paddle boards), a boat launch and a universally accessible fishing pier. Guests also enjoy campgrounds, cabins, gift shops, the discovery center, picnic areas, a six-bedroom family lodge that sleeps 15, more than 17 miles of hiking and biking trails, and an award-winning restaurant. Interpretive and environmental education programs are also offered. Hungry Mother is also home to the Hemlock Haven Conference Center, available for retreats, reunions, conferences and other special events. Catering is also available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Mountain Do Triathlon
JULY	Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival
OCTOBER	Fall Fear Mountain Bike Race

LOCATION — 4 miles north of Marion on State Route 16.

New River Trail State Park

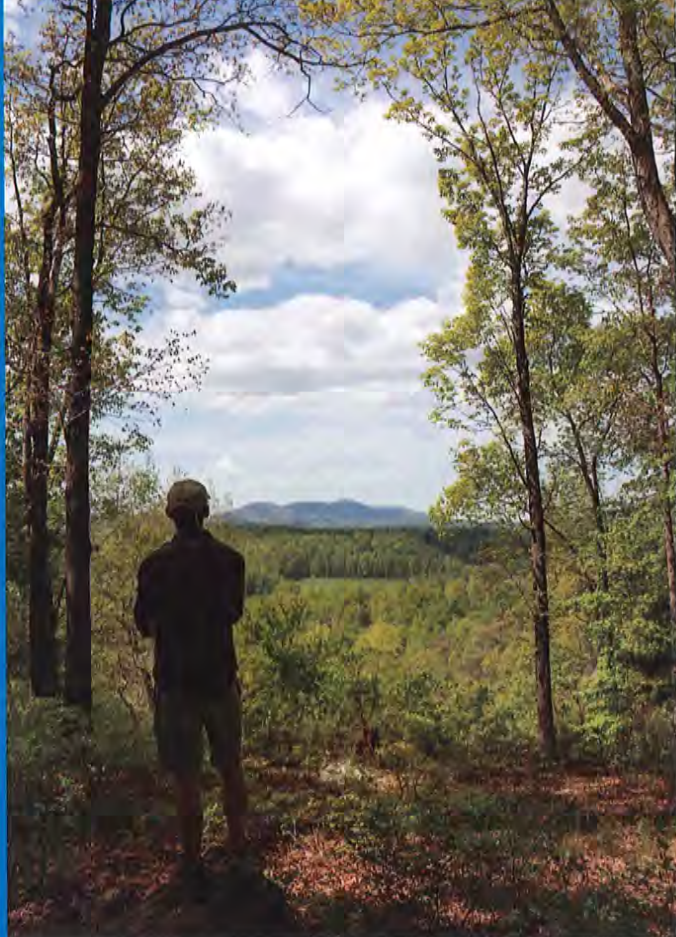
New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. Recognized by the Department of the Interior as a National Recreational Trail, the park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 39 miles and passes through four counties and Galax. The trail's gentle slope makes it great for visitors of all ages to hike, bike and ride horseback. Several places in the park have boat launches and gift shops. Foster Falls provides horse, canoe and bike rentals and a horse arena. Fishing is popular, and primitive campsites dot the trail. There are access points to the trail at Allisonia, Cliffview, Draper, Dora Junction (near Pulaski), Foster Falls, Fries, Galax, Hiwassee, Gambetta, Chestnut Yard, Austinville, Dannelly Park and Ivanhoe. Horse trailer parking is available at Allisonia, Austinville, Cliffview, Dora Junction, Draper, Fries, Ivanhoe and Foster Falls.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Spring Van Tours
SEPTEMBER	New River Trail Challenge
OCTOBER	Fall Van Tours

LOCATION — See above description for trail access points.





Fairy Stone State Park

Home of the legendary fairy stones, this park is full of wonders. Well known for its 168-acre lake and large swimming beach, the park is just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Attractions include cabins, camping, group camping, equestrian camping, a lodge, a conference center, hiking trails, fishing, picnicking, lake swimming, boat rentals and two playgrounds, including one in the water.

LOCATION — Near Martinsville. Access by Route 57 from Bassett or from the Blue Ridge Parkway via Routes 58, 8 and 57.

Occoneechee State Park

Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee is on the John H. Kerr Reservoir, better known as Buggs Island Lake, and is popular with anglers and boaters. Facilities include cabins, campsites, an equestrian campground, picnic shelters, an amphitheater, a playground, boat ramps, and a private concession offering boat rentals and snacks. Occoneechee Marina offers a fuel dock and boat slips with water and electric service for annual rentals. Six slips are available for rent to overnight camping and cabin guests. The park also has 20 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The visitor center and museum introduce visitors to Native American history and the indigenous Occoneechee people.

LOCATION — Near Clarksville, 1.5 miles east on U.S. 58, just east of the U.S. 15 and 58 intersection.

Staunton River Battlefield State Park

This park is a 300-acre Civil War historic site where a ragtag group of 700 Confederate old men and young boys beat the odds and held off an assault by 5,000 Union cavalry on a bridge of strategic importance to Gen. Lee's army, then under siege in Petersburg. Visit Confederate earthwork fortifications and walk the 600-foot long historic bridge spanning the Staunton River. Two visitor centers feature 2,300 square feet of exhibits on the area's rich Civil War heritage, Native American archaeological investigations and electric energy production. The park includes a 1.2-mile self-guided trail through the battlefield and a .75-mile nature trail with two wildlife observation towers overlooking wetlands.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Egg-stravaganza
JUNE	Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge
OCTOBER	Haunted Harvest Hayride
DECEMBER	Mulberry Hill Open House

LOCATION — 18 miles east of South Boston. Take State Route 92 to Clover. Go about 5 miles to State Route 600 and turn left. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right on State Route 855.

Staunton River State Park

Tucked neatly into the heart of Virginia, about 25 miles from the North Carolina border, Staunton River offers much to families and outdoor enthusiasts. The 2,400-acre park has woodlands, meadows and shoreline along the Dan and Staunton rivers. Cabins built in the 1930s by the CCC and a campground offer overnight lodging. The equestrian campground has large campsites and horse stalls. Access to Virginia's largest lake, Buggs Island Lake, offers freshwater fishing and boating, along with water skiing and many other aquatic activities. Recently named an International Dark Sky Park, the park also has Olympic-sized and wading pools, picnic shelters, three playgrounds, tennis and volleyball courts, several boat launches and more than 17 miles of multi-use trails. River Traders, just outside the park entrance, rents canoes and kayaks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH	Staunton River Star Party - Spring
OCTOBER	Staunton River Star Party - Fall

LOCATION — 18 miles east of South Boston. Take U.S. 360, then State Route 344 for 10 miles.

"Virginia State Parks help make memories, one moment at a time."

— Virginia State Parks Director Craig Seaver

*"Sometimes a perfect memory
can be ruined if put to words."*

— Nova Ren Suma

Breaks Interstate Park

Straddling the Virginia-Kentucky border, the park features the largest canyon east of the Mississippi. Sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the South," the park's spectacular beauty can be seen along hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails, and while boating and fishing on Laurel Lake. In October, water is released from Flannagan Reservoir, creating world-class whitewater that draws people to the Russell Fork River. The park offers camping and has a restaurant and conference center near the rim of the canyon. There are 82 lodge rooms, four cottages and five lakefront luxury cabins.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE-AUGUST	Outdoor Bluegrass events
AUGUST	Early Pioneers Settlers Weekend
OCTOBER	Halloween campground events
	Homemaking in the Mountains
	Appalachian Heritage Festival

LOCATION — On State Rt. 80 near the VA-KY state line.

Natural Tunnel State Park

More than 850 feet long and as tall as a 10-story building, Natural Tunnel was naturally carved through a limestone ridge over thousands of years. William Jennings Bryan called it the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Other scenic features include a wide chasm between steep stone walls surrounded by several pinnacles, or "chimneys." Facilities include cabins, two campgrounds, picnic areas, an amphitheater, a visitor center, a camp store and a gift shop. You'll also find the Wilderness Road Historic Area, a swimming pool with a 100-foot slide and a chairlift to the tunnel floor. Guests enjoy cave tours and canoe and kayak trips along the Clinch River as well as the Cove Ridge Center, which offers environmental education, conference facilities and overnight dorm accommodations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Frontier Muster and Trade Faire
SUMMER	Pickin' in the Park, Lighting of the Tunnel
JULY	Railroad Day
AUGUST	Papa Joe Smiddy Mountain Music Festival
DECEMBER	Christmas Lighting of the Tunnel

LOCATION — North from Gate City via U.S. 23, then 1 mile east on State Route 871. The park turn-off is at mile marker 17.4.

Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park

A National Historic Landmark, the Southwest Virginia Museum is in an 1890s Victorian stone mansion with original oak interior. The collection includes more than 40,000 pieces and state-of-the-art exhibits telling the story of the exploration and development of Southwest Virginia from the pioneer era of the 1700s to the mining "boom and bust" era of the late 1800s. The museum also offers many interpretive and special events. The gift shop features unique items representative of the area's history and crafts made by regional artisans. The park offers facilities for meetings, weddings and other special occasions, and the charming Poplar Hill Cottage is available for overnight guests.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL-MAY	Stitch in Time Quilt Show
MAY	Gathering in the Gap Music Festival
OCTOBER	Hoots 'n' Haints Family Festival
MID-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 31	Festival of Trees

LOCATION — 10 West 1st Street North, Big Stone Gap.

Wilderness Road State Park

Wilderness Road offers picnicking, hiking, and nature and living history programs. Visitors can enjoy the visitor center, home to the area's only Virginia Tourism Certified Regional Tourist Information Center, a theater showing an award-winning docudrama, "Wilderness Road, Spirit of a Nation." The center also has a frontier museum and a gift shop with unique regional gifts. The park features the reconstructed Martin's Station, an outdoor living history museum depicting life on Virginia's 1775 frontier. Guests also enjoy a 100-seat amphitheater, nature play-scape, ADA-certified playground, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits and picnic shelters. Visitors can hike, bike or horseback ride on the 8.5-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with more than 50 miles of trails in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The 1870s era mansion is available for weddings, events and meetings. The solarium is perfect for showers, birthdays and other special functions. The visitor center's theater and amphitheater also are available for groups to rent.

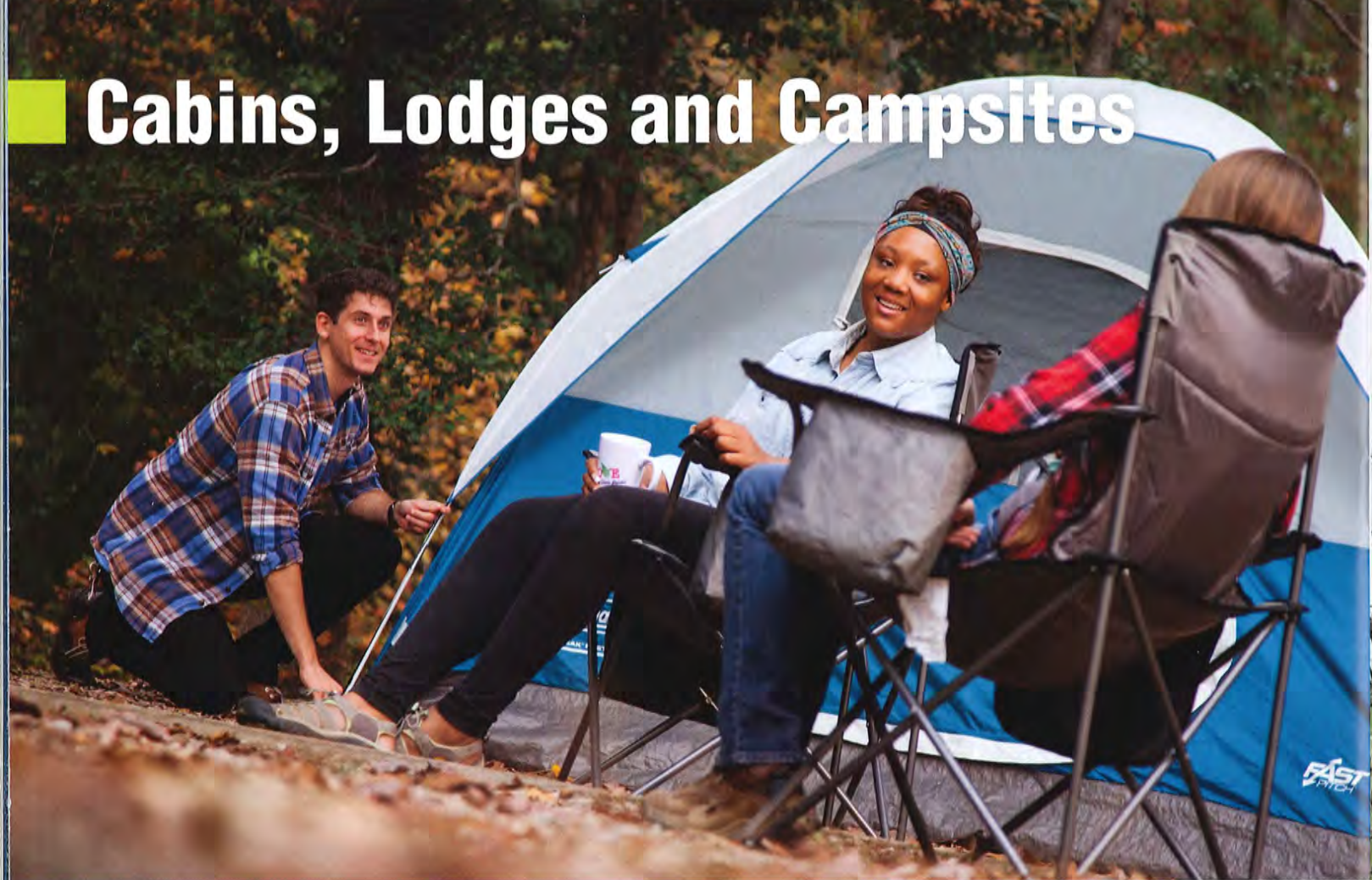
SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL	Easter at Karlan
MAY	Raid at Martin's Station
AUGUST	Community Appreciation Day
OCTOBER	Wilderness Road Heritage Festival
	Martin's Station Fall Encampment
	Pumpkins in the Park
DECEMBER	Karlan Country Christmasfest

LOCATION — 5 miles west of Ewing, on U.S. 58.



Cabins, Lodges and Campsites



Virginia State Parks provide comfortable and economical overnight accommodations. There are more than 300 climate-controlled cabins and more than 1,800 campsites, ranging from primitive sites to sites with electric and water hookups. Many cabins are available all year. While most campgrounds are only open from the first Friday in March to the first Monday in December, primitive campsites are available year-round. Full-service camping at Shenandoah River, Douthat and Hungry Mother is also available year-round.

Camping, cabin and campsite picnic shelter reservations can be made by calling the Virginia State Parks Customer Service Center 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays at 800-933-PARK (7275). Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance. The center takes same-day camping reservations until 2 p.m. Cabin and campsite reservations can also be made online at www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Cabins and Lodges

If you prefer a cozy climate-controlled cabin to camping in the great outdoors, you're in luck. Nineteen parks rent cabins. See the grid on page 5 for details. Cabin sizes and sleeping arrangements vary by park.

All cabins have kitchens and bathrooms with a shower. They have rustic furniture, a microwave, a refrigerator, an oven, dishes, cooking utensils, silverware, kitchen towels and glassware. Bath towels and bedroom linens, including pillows, blankets, sheets

and pillow cases, also are included. Except for cabins at Chippokes Plantation and the Martin Cottage and Hill Lodge at Twin Lakes, all cabins have fireplaces. Cabins at Smith Mountain Lake have wood stoves. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the standard cabin rental period is one week. Rentals for less than a week during this period can be made only within a month prior to the desired occupancy based on availability. There is a two-night minimum stay. In 2016, new cabins are opening at Claytor Lake, Kiptopeke, Lake Anna, Natural Tunnel and Twin Lakes.

For larger groups and retreats, five and six-bedroom lodges are available at Bear Creek Lake, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother, James River, Kiptopeke, Natural Tunnel, Occoneechee, Shenandoah River and Westmoreland. They are rented as a whole, not by individual rooms.

Check-in is 4 p.m.; check-out is 10 a.m. Check-in days during the week-long requirement vary, so contact the Customer Service Center. Cabins cannot be reserved for more than 14 days within a single month.

Special Facilities

Bel Air and Guest House. These upscale, overnight facilities in Belle Isle State Park are perfect for family reunions or picturesque weddings. Furnished with reproduction furniture, the mansion comfortably sleeps six. The simply furnished guest house sleeps eight.

Poplar Hill Cottage at the Southwest Virginia Museum. This quaint, garden-themed cottage is the perfect getaway in the mountains. Furnished with reproduction furniture, the cottage is in the historic Poplar Hill neighborhood, adjacent to other fine homes. It comfortably sleeps six and has two full baths. This facility is reserved by calling 276-523-1322.

Camping

Camping lodges (bunkhouses) are available at Bear Creek Lake, Belle Isle, Claytor Lake, Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Holliday Lake, James River, Kiptopeke, Lake Anna, Occoneechee, Smith Mountain Lake and Staunton River state parks.

Camping cabins are available at Lake Anna, Pocahontas, Shenandoah River and Westmoreland state parks. Kiptopeke State Park offers a unique yurt as well as camping trailers.

None of the facilities above has bathrooms or appliances. Guests use nearby campground restrooms.

Developed and group campsites have picnic tables, grills and access to bathhouses. Primitive campsites generally have fire grills, picnic tables, vault toilets and non-potable water. See the grid on page 5 for a list of parks with developed campsites.

Primitive drive-in camping is available at James River, and hike-in and canoe-in sites are available at Belle Isle, Caledon, James River, New River Trail, Powhatan and Shenandoah River state parks.

Primitive hike-in camping is available at False Cape, New River Trail and Sky Meadows. False Cape prohibits open fires and provides pit toilets and picnic tables. Water is available only at False Cape's Barbour Hill area.

Note: False Cape State Park requires reservations. Campers must receive information about camping at the park by mail, email or fax before their stay. Conditions are primitive. False Cape is recommended for experienced campers only. Please call the Customer Service Center for details.

Equestrian campsites are available at Douthat, Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, James River, New River Trail, Occoneechee and Staunton River state parks.

The maximum camping period allowed is 14 nights in a calendar month. Campers cannot be assured of access to reserved sites before 4 p.m. on their arrival date, but early check-in is often available. Check-out is 3 p.m.

Reservations for summer weekend camping should be made as early as possible. To best meet the needs of the camping public, specific campsites are assigned upon arrival at the park, not when the reservation is made, except at False Cape and New River Trail and sites that are part of a site-specific reservation pilot program. Unreserved campsites are available for rent on a first-come, first-served basis, but reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations can be made until 2 p.m. for same day arrival.

Virginia State Parks Site-specific Reservation Pilot Program

The inaugural year of our hybrid reservation system of both site-specific and choosing sites upon arrival was successful. We will continue the program in 2016.

Beginning April 1, 2016, we will open reservations for 2017 by increasing site-specific sites at the six pilot parks to approximately 50 percent and adding Bear Creek Lake and Holliday Lake to the pilot program.

Park	Sites available for site-specific reservations in 2016
Belle Isle State Park	4 and 5 (buddy sites); 11, 29, 30
Chippokes Plantation State Park	B1 through B7
Douthat State Park	Beaverdam and Whispering Pines campgrounds
First Landing State Park	A1 through A35; C1 through C18; D1 through D11
Grayson Highlands State Park	2, 4, 6, 8, 22, 24, 26, 28, 33, 35, 37, 39, 52, 54, 56
Hungry Mother State Park	C3 and C4; B12, B14, B16, B19; Camp Burson 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28





Cancellation Policy

Campsites

Cancellations may be made by calling the Customer Service Center during operating hours or the park when the Customer Service Center is closed. A \$10 per site cancellation fee will be deducted from paid fees. Cancellation fees also apply to horse stalls. Group camping areas and buddy sites have a \$30 cancellation fee. Reservation changes must be made through the Customer Service Center before the start of the reserved stay. Once a stay has begun, those departing early will be charged a penalty of one night. A \$5 transaction fee charged when reservations are made also will not be refunded.

Cabins, Camping Trailers and a Yurt

Before the scheduled check-in time, cancellations may be made by calling the Customer Service Center or the park when the Customer Service Center is closed. For cabins with up to three bedrooms, \$30 will be charged for cancellations made at least a month before the scheduled arrival date. For cabins with more than three bedrooms, that fee is \$60. The cancellation fee within a month is \$30 per night for cabins with up to three bedrooms and \$60 per night for larger facilities.

The fee also applies to early departures and reductions in the number of nights of the reservation. The two-night minimum is not refunded. There is a \$20 fee to transfer a cabin reservation (\$50 for a lodge reservation) to another time or park. This must be done through the Customer Service Center and before 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled arrival. Contact the Customer Service Center for a complete description of the refund policy. A \$5 transaction fee charged when reservations are made also will not be refunded.



"Of all that I have possessed in my life, my memories are the only things remaining to me. Indeed, I believe that memories are the only real treasure any human can hope to hold always."

— Gary Jennings

Meeting and event facilities

Weddings, reunions, meetings, conferences ... Virginia State Parks are perfect for your next event

The nationally acclaimed **Hemlock Haven Conference Center** at Hungry Mother State Park in Southwest Virginia offers overnight accommodations, special amenities and three meeting spaces that together can accommodate up to 375 people.

Cedar Crest Conference Center at Twin Lakes State Park in central Virginia offers meeting space for up to 90 in a picturesque setting. To make reservations at Cedar Crest, call 434-767-2398. A certified meeting professional can help plan your special event.

First Landing State Park's **Trail Center, Chesapeake Bay Center**, courtyard and amphitheater are perfect for weddings, receptions, corporate meetings and events. The Trail Center has a meeting room, outdoor deck and warming kitchen. The Chesapeake Bay Center has a meeting room for up to 40 people. The outdoor courtyard and amphitheater can accommodate up to 250.

At Westmoreland State Park, **Tayloe Murphy Hall** accommodates up to 65 people. It's perfect for meetings or receptions. Audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and a breakout room are available.

The **Bear Creek Lake Meeting Hall** accommodates up to 65 people for meetings, wedding receptions and other gatherings.

The **Cove Ridge Center** at Natural Tunnel State Park is ideal for weddings, reunions, conferences and business meetings. The center's two dormitories accommodate up to 48 people each. Overnight guests have free use of the adjacent swimming pool during normal operating hours. Reservations are handled by the park at 276-940-2696.

The **Water's Edge Meeting Facility** at Claytor Lake State Park offers a beautiful setting for weddings, reunions and other special events. A large meeting room accommodates from 72 to 125 people, depending on the seating arrangement. The room overlooks the lake and provides a scenic view of the water's edge.

The **Karlan Mansion** at Wilderness Road State Park, **Jones-Stewart Mansion** at Chippokes Plantation State Park and **Bel Air** at Belle Isle State Park are historic, picturesque locations for weddings and family reunions.

Claytor Lake, Fairy Stone, Pocahontas and the Southwest Virginia Museum also have meeting facilities. A state parks customer service representative can help you plan a special event in a state park. Call the Customer Service Center weekdays at 800-933-PARK (7275) or contact the park directly.



Cove Ridge Center
at Natural Tunnel State Park



Water's Edge Meeting Facility
at Claytor Lake State Park



Gazebo at Claytor Lake State Park



Tayloe Murphy Hall at
Westmoreland State Park

Natural Area Preserves

Public Access Amenities

		Birding/Wildlife Watching	Boardwalk	Canoe/Kayak Landing	Hiking	Observation Deck	Parking	Self-guided Trails	Toilets
SHENANDOAH VALLEY									
1	Goshen Pass, Rockbridge County	•			•		•		
VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS									
2	Poor Mountain, Roanoke County	•			•		•	•	
3	Grassy Hill, Franklin County	•			•		•	•	
NORTHERN VIRGINIA									
4	Bull Run Mountains, Fauquier and Prince William counties***	•			•		•		
5	Crow's Nest, Stafford County	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CHESAPEAKE BAY									
6	Bethel Beach, Mathews County	•					•		
7	Bush Mill Stream, Northumberland County	•			•	•	•	•	•
8	Dameron Marsh, Northumberland County	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
9	Hickory Hollow, Lancaster County*	•			•		•	•	•
10	Hughlett Point, Northumberland County	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
11	New Point Comfort, Mathews County**	•	•			•	•	•	•
HAMPTON ROADS									
12	North Landing River, Virginia Beach	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
13	Cumberland Marsh, New Kent County**	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
EASTERN SHORE									
14	Cape Charles, Northampton County	•	•			•	•		
15	Magothy Bay, Northampton County	•			•		•	•	•
16	Mutton Hunk Fen, Accomack County	•			•		•	•	•
17	Savage Neck Dunes, Northampton County	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
CENTRAL VIRGINIA									
18	Chub Sandhill, Sussex County	•			•		•		
BLUE RIDGE									
19	Buffalo Mountain, Floyd County	•			•		•		
HEART OF APPALACHIA									
20	Pinnacle, Russell County	•			•		•	•	•
21	Channels, Russell and Washington counties	•			•		•	•	•

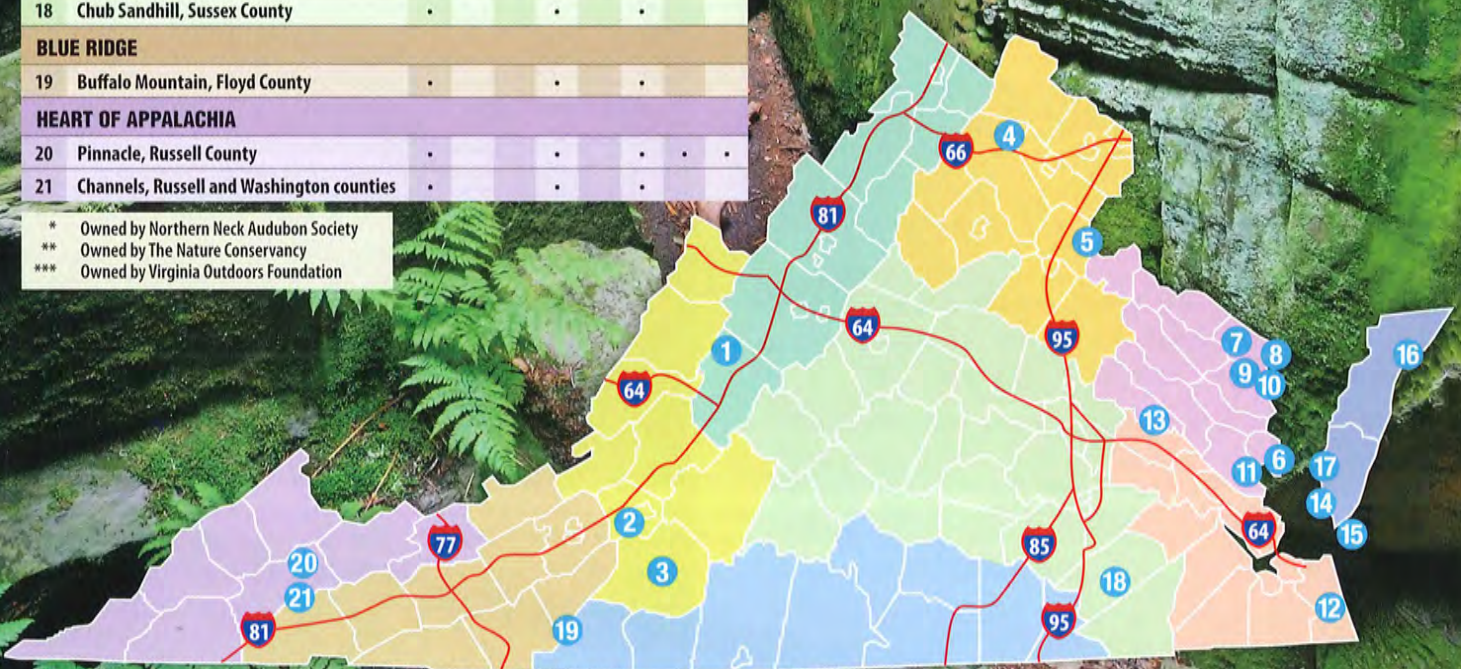
* Owned by Northern Neck Audubon Society

** Owned by The Nature Conservancy

*** Owned by Virginia Outdoors Foundation

State natural area preserves are managed under DCR's Virginia Natural Heritage Program, which started in 1986. For the past 30 years, program staff has worked to protect Virginia's rare plants, animals and natural communities. Scientists, information managers, resource management experts and an extensive conservation information system are the foundation upon which the natural area preserve system is built. Natural Heritage staff also provides land conservation and planning information to the public to help individuals, organizations and companies make well-informed land conservation and land use decisions.

Public access is offered at 21 natural area preserves.



Get involved

Be a Volunteer

Virginia State Parks wouldn't be the same without the valuable and enthusiastic efforts of our volunteers, who contribute more than 300,000 hours of support annually.

No matter your interests, schedule or experience, there is a way to get involved.

The Youth Conservation Corps, for people ages 14-17, the AmeriCorps program for those over 17, and Friends groups for all ages are ways to get involved and help Virginia State Parks preserve and protect Virginia's natural resources. At the same time, parks provide nearly 9 million people each year safe, affordable and enjoyable recreation opportunities.

For more information, email vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov, call 800-933-PARK (7275) or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Virginia Association for Parks

The VAFP promotes volunteerism in Virginia's state and national parks. For more information or to sign up for a free associate membership, visit www.virginiaparks.org.

VIRGINIA LOVES CAMPERS

Virginia Loves Campers is a partnership among Virginia State Parks, the Virginia Tourism Corp. and the Virginia Campground Association. Mountains, lakes, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic



Ocean beaches make Virginia one of America's best camping destinations. This partnership helps us better serve and inform campers of the unparalleled natural, cultural and recreational resources in state parks and across Virginia. For a comprehensive list of all of Virginia's campgrounds and camping opportunities, visit www.virginia.org/campingrving/. Also visit www.virginiacampgrounds.org for Virginia Campground Association information.

Careers

The need for qualified rangers continues to grow. Rangers routinely work outside, serve millions of visitors, and preserve and protect Virginia's natural resources. Other positions in state parks focus on environmental education, maintenance, law enforcement, natural resource management, sales and administration. For information about a career in Virginia State Parks, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/careers. Internships are also available.



Contribute

Virginians can make a tax-deductible donation to state and local parks and natural areas by contributing all or part of their state tax refund to the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund. See your state tax return form for more information.

General Information

Special Discounts

With everything we offer, Virginia State Parks are still among the most economical vacation destinations around. Discount passes and annual passes for parking, boat launching and swimming are for sale at parks statewide. Senior discount passes are also available. Virginia residents get 15 percent off cabin rates. Ask about special group rates.

Park Accessibility

Virginia State Parks strive to make each park as barrier-free as possible. Contact the Customer Service Center or individual parks for more information before your trip.



Pets

Pets are welcome in Virginia State Parks but must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet or in an enclosed area at all times. Cabin guests are charged \$10 plus tax per night per pet. No pet fee is charged for camping. Pets aren't allowed in the yurt at Kiptopeke State Park or in Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Pets may be brought to False Cape State Park only by boat or through the southern entrance on the North Carolina border.



DOWNLOAD
OUR FREE
MOBILE APP

Download the Virginia State Parks app, featuring park locations, maps, activity searches, events and much more. Powered by Pocket Ranger®.

Look for it on iTunes or Android Market as "Pocket Ranger®" or visit us at StateParkApps.com.

Find your way to
Virginia State Parks.
Share your experience.
#vastateparks

Natural Tunnel

- Ride the chair lift to the tunnel.
- Take a wild cave tour.

New River Trail

- Ride the old Norfolk and Western railbed in miniature rail cars.
- Stroll along the banks of the New River, the second oldest river in the world.

Occoneechee

- Attend an authentic powwow.
- Tour the peaceful, scenic landscape of Terrace Gardens.

Pocahontas

- Enjoy family fun at the fall Park After Dark.
- Learn the history of Virginia State Parks and the CCC at the museum.

Powhatan

- Go to archery camp, for those 10 and older.
- Canoe the James.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield

- Walk an illuminated trail with living historians during the Veterans Day Luminary event.
- Experience an encampment.

Shenandoah River

- See wildflowers and vernal pools filled with salamander and frog egg masses along the Cottonwood Boardwalk in the early spring.
- View fall colors from Cullers Overlook.

Shot Tower

- Tour the tower.

Sky Meadows

- Meet the Beekeepers.
- Go back in time and experience an antebellum plantation.

Smith Mountain Lake

- Learn about history on a pontoon boat tour.
- Attend the winter lecture series.

Southwest Virginia Museum

- Enjoy lunch on the lawn.
- Attend the artisan series.

Staunton River

- Enjoy the nationally recognized Star Party.

Staunton River Battlefield

- Take a battlefield tour.
- Learn about the Civil War at the Friday Night Fights series.

Tabb Monument

- Take a selfie.

Twins Lakes

- Try to conquer the Avalanche.

Westmoreland

- Kayak below Horsehead Cliffs.
- Enjoy music by the river.

Wilderness Road

- Watch the Raid at Martin's Station.
- Take in a Candlelight Ghost Tour and Haunted Dinner.

York River

- Paddle the Taskinas Creek and York River confluence.

All parks

- Sign the kids up for the Junior Ranger program.
- Hike in the rain.
- Explore a different world on a ranger-led night hike.
- Enjoy an outdoor concert.
- Pose for a photo with mascot Parker Redfox.
- Take a child camping.
- Find a geocache.
- Take the Trail Quest Challenge.
- Download and use the state parks app, powered by Pocket Ranger.



